

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1           1.     A graphical user interface (GUI), comprising:  
2                     at least one option area for displaying to a user functions which may be  
3     invoked by the user by operating an input device to the GUI; and  
4                     an instrumentality operable to be activated by the user when the user manipulates  
5     the input device for displaying at the user's command in a separate menu the functions  
6     that are displayable to the user in the at least one option area.
- 1           2.     The GUI recited in claim 1, wherein the instrumentality comprises a  
2     sequence of keystrokes.
- 1           3.     The GUI recited in claim 1, wherein the instrumentality comprises an  
2     icon.
- 1           4.     The GUI recited in claims 2 or 3, further comprising a separate menu  
2     which is activated by the user invoking the instrumentality and which lists options that  
3     are hidden from the user's view in the option area.
- 1           5.     The GUI recited in claim 1 wherein the GUI comprises a plurality of  
2     options areas.
- 1           6.     The GUI recited in claim 6, wherein each of the option areas in the  
2     plurality of options areas comprises a separate color.
- 1           7.     A method of providing to a user of a graphical user interface (GUI) option  
2     functions for software that is associated with the GUI, comprising the steps of:  
3                     providing at least one option area for displaying to a user functions which  
4     may be invoked by the user by operating an input device to the GUI; and  
5                     providing an instrumentality operable to be activated by the user when the  
6     user manipulates the input device for displaying at the user's command in a separate  
7     menu the functions that are displayable to the user in the at least one option area.
- 1           8.     The method recited in claim 7, wherein the instrumentality comprises a  
2     sequence of keystrokes.
- 1           9.     The method recited in claim 7, wherein the instrumentality comprises an  
2     icon.

1           10.    The method recited in claims 8 or 9, wherein the second providing step  
2 further comprises the step of creating a separate menu which is activated by the user  
3 invoking the instrumentality and which lists options that are hidden from the user's view  
4 in the option area.

1           11.    The method recited in claim 7 wherein the first providing step comprises  
2 providing to the user a plurality of options areas.

1           12.    The method recited in claim 11, wherein each of the option areas in the  
2 plurality of options areas comprises a separate color.